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Response

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

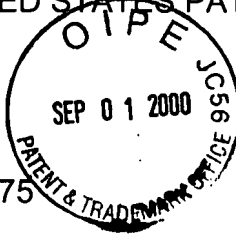
In re the application of:

DILL et al

Serial Number: 09/147,175

Filed: February 25, 1999

For: DEVICE FOR HOLDING A PAPER SHEET



Group Art Unit: 3632

Examiner: Wood, K.

ADDITIONAL RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

September 1, 2000

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Sir:

Further in response to the Office Action dated March 1, 2000, please consider the Response filed on August 1, 2000 together with the following remarks concerning the invention.

The invention relates to a device for holding a paper sheet close to the vertical in order to facilitate the viewing thereof.

In this regard, the concept of the invention is a device which comprises a first holding element having two bearing zones and a second holding element having a protruding section.

The first and second holding elements are arranged such as to cooperate with one another in a particular manner. Specifically:

- they define a space between them which opens upwards for accommodating the paper sheet to be inserted, the space being wider at a top than at a base of said space, and

- they are arranged such that, as seen in the lateral projection,

- the protruding section and the bearing zones overlap each other partially,

- the protruding section and the bearing zones are tilted backwards, and
- the protruding section is tilted less than the bearing zones.

The afore-mentioned concept and specific construction of the device of the invention allows to obtain the following advantages:

a) no prior bending of the sheet is necessary, therefore, the paper sheet can be inserted by holding it with only one hand,

b) a curvature is conferred gradually upon the paper sheet, since the protruding section and the bearing zones overlap partially, only,

c) a backward tilt is conferred upon the paper sheet, since both the protruding section and the bearing zones are tilted backwards,

d) two lines of force towards the upper angles of the paper sheet (rigidifying the same) are created by the fact that the protruding section is tilted less than the bearing zones and that, therefore, only the lower part of the protruding section protrudes between the bearing zones,

e) a "three-point fixing" arrangement (shown but not so named in the description), which creates the two lines of force, grips the paper sheet only by its lower edge and over a small height, but holds it nevertheless in a stable manner.

Consequently, the device can hold paper sheets or sheets of any other material, and sheets of any shape, for instance rectangular, oval or circular (see page 3, lines 13 - 21 of the specification).

It should be further noted that the "three-point fixing" arrangement of the device of the invention, provides the paper sheet, once the sheet is inserted, with a curvature that

varies from strongly arcuate at the base of the sheet to hardly arcuate at the top of the sheet, as is shown on Fig. 8.

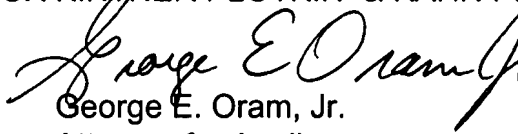
Consequently, for all of the above reasons together with the Response filed August 1, 2000, it is strongly contended that certain clear differences exist between the present invention as claimed and the prior art relied upon by the Examiner. It is further contended that these differences are more than sufficient that the present invention as claimed was not anticipated and would not have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made viewing that prior art.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection, indicate the allowability of Claims 13 -18, and pass this case to issue.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

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